

Borg misses two matches

DEFENDER George Borg will miss Wycombe's last two games of the season, after being banned a fortnight from yesterday (Monday) for his second batch of five bookings this season.

This comparatively light sentence means that Borg will play no more for the Blues this season, missing their visits to Leatherhead this Saturday and to Bromley on May 2.

In effect Borg has been banned for one game, as he

would have missed the Bromley trip in any case, because of a holiday in the United States.

Borg was meant to play this summer for Rodney Marsh's Carolina Lightning team in the American Football League. But after all the arrangements had been made, the league decided to ban signings of foreign players.

Sensing Borg's disappointment, Marsh invited George and his wife to stay with him for a month in America, by way of compensation.

As Slough stumble . . . WANDERERS NOW HAVE A REAL CHANGE

By MICHAEL KNOX Croydon 2, Wycombe 3

TERRY Scott, whose eye for the sharp chance has served Wycombe Wanderers so well in the past month, poached two more opportunist goals as the side came from behind to beat Croydon on Saturday, and enhance their championship challenge.

With Slough losing at home to Hendon — their first defeat at Wexham Park this season — Wycombe now have a three point lead at the top of the Berger Isthmian League Premier Division and must now possess a real chance of snatching the title.

Enfield, with a game in hand but with a better goal difference, are three points behind while Slough are a further one point behind. So Slough, now with only two games in hand, must win all their remaining four matches to be sure of the title.

But if Wanderers show the fighting qualities that enabled them to win in windy and bouncy conditions at Croydon then the championship could be coming back to Loakes Park for the first time in six years.

Warning

They really had to battle, for Croydon were a rejuvenated side from the one that struggled at Wycombe last month. The home side ran Wanderers' ragged for the first half hour forcing five corners without reply.

From the third of these Gary Lester turned Kevin Whitney's kick into his net, only to be saved by the referee's whistle which indicated that he had been fouled. But the warning was there for all to see.

Ten minutes later Croydon eventually took the lead in almost identical fashion. Whitney's inswinging corner found Lester in all sorts of trouble from Ray Shinnars' challenge and the ball fell for Alan Prime to drive in from close range.

This was a bad sign for the Blues, who until Saturday had not won a game this season from behind, and after Croydon's former Chelsea man Alec Jackson had blasted a good chance over the bar, Wycombe levelled matters.

Nipping in

The score came from their first corner in the 33rd minute — even that fact gives an idea of how Wycombe struggled to find their feet.

Croydon goalkeeper Peter Mills could only palm Steve Long's kick on to his own bar and there was Scott nipping in to nod the ball over the line.

Jackson continued to pose a threat to the Wanderers' shaky defence, which received little support from mid-field. Before half-time he hit a post and then forced Lester to make a save at his feet.

But within 90 seconds of the restart Wycombe had snatched the lead thanks to a piece of neat skill from Mick Holifield.

Receiving Howard Kennedy's cross from the right, Holifield found himself under pressure from Mills.

But he evaded the 'keeper's challenge, turned and ran the ball into the net.

Wycombe's lead was short lived, just four minutes to be precise. Whitney, a skilful winger, beat Paul Birdseye on the left and floated over a high cross. Jon Warden won it in the air and Jackson headed past Lester.

There followed the decisive phase of the match with both sides struggling for the winning goal which seemed certain to come.

It did so in the 61st minute and went Wycombe's way. Phil Smith's defensive head-back to his own 'keeper was intercepted by Scott who nodded an opportunist header past Mills.

Critical

That was the critical blow, Croydon had little left to offer after that, although the ever dangerous Jackson forced Lester to tip a shot over the bar.

The closing stages were highlighted by a bizarre confusion over the booking of Croydon defender Reg Gaston, following a retaliatory kick at Terry Glynn.

Now, Gaston is one of three coloured players in the Croydon side, and after con-

sultation with his linesman, referee Mr Pearson called over Tony Welsh by mistake. After further instructions from the linesman, Mr Pearson finally booked the right man.

CROYDON: P. Mills; B. Walker, R. Gaston, P. Smith, R. Shinnars, K. Grose, A. Prime (sub. V. Amstrudo 77 mins), A. Jackson.

WYCOMBE: G. Lester; P. Birdseye, G. Borg, R. Davies, K. Mead, M. Holifield, K. Wilson, H. Kennedy, T. Glynn, T. Scott, S. Long. Sub.: R. Dell (not used).

Referee: G. Pearson (Kingston-on-Thames).
Half-time: 1-1. **Scores:** Croydon — Prime (25 mins), Jackson (51); Wycombe — Scott 2 (33, 61), Holifield (47).

BERGER ISTHMIAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wycombe	40	22	8	10	73	45	74
Enfield	39	20	11	8	74	41	70
Slough	38	19	13	6	59	31	70
Leytonstone	40	19	10	11	76	56	67
Sutton	36	17	11	8	72	54	62
Dagenham	41	17	11	13	79	65	62
Hendon	41	17	10	14	62	57	61
Harrow	39	16	10	13	55	45	58
Staines	41	15	9	17	59	58	54
Bromley	40	15	9	16	60	66	54
Hayes	38	16	8	16	39	47	54
Tooting	41	15	7	19	48	52	52
Hitchin	39	14	8	17	63	60	50
Dulwich	41	13	11	17	61	66	50
*Barking	42	13	12	17	58	72	49
Croydon	39	11	15	13	47	46	48
Leatherhead	40	11	13	16	34	49	46
Carshalton	38	13	7	18	53	72	46
Harlow	40	10	15	15	49	62	45
Walthamstow	38	12	7	19	44	71	43
Boreham Wd	40	10	11	8	44	67	41
Woking	39	10	6	23	37	65	33

*2 pts deducted, 13 pts deducted.

Israelis warm up at Loakes Park

WYCOMBE will be attempting to achieve something neither Rumania nor Austria managed, when they entertain the Israel national side at Loakes Park on Thursday evening, kick-off 7.30pm.

This same Israel squad, which does not include players currently starring in the English Football League, overcame both these European countries in recent friendly internationals.

Rumania, whom England play next week, went down 2-1 while Austria crashed 5-1. So the Wanderers have quite a task on their hands if they are to gain a favourable result.

Israel, managed by the former Reading boss Jack Mansell, are using the match against Wycombe as a build-up towards the World Cup qualifier against Scotland at Hampden Park next week, when they will be strengthened, among others, by Liverpool full-back Avi Cohen.

This will be Wycombe's second friendly in three days as tonight (Tuesday) they travel to play Wealdstone of the Alliance Premier League.

All this is a hectic prelude to Wycombe's final two matches in their chase for the Berger Isthmian League championship. On Saturday they visit Leatherhead and on May 2 go to Bromley.

Slough, who have taken only one point from their last nine meet Walthamstow tomorrow (Wednesday) evening.